Mike and Nancy Petters, along with their daughters Caroline and Sarah, are sponsors of An Achievable Dream’s Class of 2014. Always a closely guarded secret, the announcement was made during the 2013 Tennis Ball on November 16 by then An Achievable Dream President and CEO Aubrey Layne. Following a processional to the music of “Pomp and Circumstance,” members of the Class of 2014 were on stage as the announcement was made. As they left the stage, each student shook hands with the Petters family and received an envelope with a personal note of encouragement.

Mike Petters is president and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries, America’s largest military shipbuilder. Nancy, Caroline and Sarah Petters are all teachers and active volunteers in their communities. “For me, the American Dream is about achieving your destiny,” said Mike Petters. “Our opportunity to help these young people gives us a small way to pay back those who helped us in the past.”

The Petters family’s generous donation will provide annual merit scholarships for each member of the class every year that they attend college and maintain a 2.0 or higher grade point average. Additionally, the Petters will provide encouragement and emotional support during their senior year and as the graduates pursue their dreams in college. The graduates of the Class of 2014 will be known as the Petters Family Scholars.

The Petters family
More than 900 people attended the 21st Annual Achievable Dream Tennis Ball, held on November 16, 2013, at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. The event raised a record amount of funds as attendees gathered to celebrate the school and to honor the life and work of founder Walter Segaloff. Guests enjoyed the silent auction, dinner and exciting live auction featuring 12 cars, a motorcycle, vacations, private plane trips and dinners in private homes. Funds from the event will be used to support the students of An Achievable Dream for special activities related to the SAME® (Social, Academic and Moral Education) curriculum, field trips, uniforms and Summer Intersession.
THANK YOU to the 2013 Tennis Ball Honorary Chairman William B. Downey, president and CEO of Riverside Health System, for your commitment to An Achievable Dream and your leadership for the Tennis Ball.

THANK YOU to Auction Co-Chair Patricia Resto, President Kevin Yeargin and members of the Rotary Club of the Virginia Peninsula for your ongoing enthusiasm and support of the Dream.

THANK YOU to the many volunteers who gave your time and dedication to make the 2013 Tennis Ball a success! We could not have done it without you!

THANK YOU to the 21st Annual Tennis Ball Corporate Sponsors for your generous support.

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Thank YOU to the item donors who provided an incredible array of silent and live auction items. Year after year, your generous and unfailing support has allowed us to provide an excellent education and numerous extracurricular opportunities to the students of An Achievable Dream. For a complete list of item donors, please visit AchievableDream.org/events/tennis-ball-2014.
Doctor of Dreams Awarded to Walter Segaloff

During the 21st Annual Tennis Ball, An Achievable Dream Board Chairmen Branch Lawson and Gordon Gentry presented the honorary Doctor of Dreams award (posthumously) to Walter Segaloff for his vision, leadership and dedication to An Achievable Dream. The award is presented to those who have gone “above and beyond” to make a difference in the lives of the Dreamers and has been given only 14 times in the last two decades.

“As we present the Doctor of Dreams this evening, it represents just a small gesture of gratitude for the vision of Walter Segaloff, who founded An Achievable Dream and worked so hard and diligently with all of you to make it successful so that our students could achieve their dreams,” said Branch Lawson, chairman of the AAD, Inc. Board.

Walter’s wife, Ann Segaloff, his son, Peter Segaloff, and his granddaughter, Hannah Segaloff, accepted the award. “The rabbi at Walter’s funeral said something that really stuck with me, because it’s true. Walter made us better,” said Ann Segaloff. “My friend Carol Capo said ‘Walter made us better, sometimes kicking and fighting, but he got us there.’ Walter got us there and he got us here. Walter made a path for us to follow. Now it is incumbent on us to keep going, keep forging a path to make lives better.”

PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS OF THE DOCTOR OF DREAMS

1997: John Warner, U.S. Senator
1998: Charles Robb, U.S. Senator; Robert Scott, U.S. Congressman; Bud Ramey, Riverside Health System
1999: Alan Diamonstein, Delegate, Commonwealth of Virginia; Marvin and Claire Friedberg, Norfolk, Virginia
2000: Art Casey, Casey Auto Group
2002: Marvin and Marilyn Simon, Virginia Beach, Virginia
2004: Jo Ann Davis, U.S. Congresswoman; Joe S. Frank, Mayor, City of Newport News, Virginia
2010: Dr. Denise Chamblee, Newport News, Virginia; Richard Coleman, Hampton, Virginia
2012: Edward B. Snyder, Checkered Flag

Ann Segaloff accepts the Doctor of Dreams award with Hannah Segaloff and Peter Segaloff.

Aubrey Layne Appointed Virginia’s Secretary of Transportation

KATHY EDWARDS NAMED INTERIM AAD PRESIDENT

On Friday, November 22, with the Norfolk International Terminals as a backdrop, Governor-elect Terry McAuliffe nominated Aubrey Layne, An Achievable Dream’s president and CEO, as Virginia’s next Secretary of Transportation. Layne has represented Hampton Roads on the Commonwealth Transportation Board since 2009 and serves as chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel Commission. He will continue to serve An Achievable Dream as a board member.

Following the announcement, the Steering Committee of the An Achievable Dream Boards of Directors voted unanimously to name Kathy Edwards as interim president of An Achievable Dream beginning January 1, 2014.

“Obviously losing someone as talented as Aubrey, coupled with the death this summer of our founder Walter Segaloff, creates a void,” said Gordon Gentry, chair of the AAD, Inc. Board, “but at An Achievable Dream, we are fortunate to have an outstanding leader well prepared to step up. Chief Operating Officer Kathy Edwards completely understands our mission and has the respect..."
Virginia Beach An Achievable Dream Academy to Open in July 2014

“Virginia Beach City Public Schools is pleased beyond belief to welcome AAD to Seatack Elementary in 2014. The culture of Virginia Beach City Public Schools is that of continuous improvement, and AAD reflects the change that we know will help our students become great citizens in the future.”

—Dan Edwards, Board Chairman, Virginia Beach City Public Schools

After nearly a year of negotiations and community meetings, An Achievable Dream will expand to Virginia Beach for the 2014–2015 school year. The Virginia Beach An Achievable Dream Academy will open at Seatack Elementary School in July with Summer Intersession, serving 300 students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. Initially, only students who live in the Seatack Elementary School zone will be eligible to attend. Seatack families who do not want to participate in the An Achievable Dream program may transfer to nearby Birdneck Elementary School. Zoned 3rd through 5th grade students will continue at Seatack, and the principal and staff will work to share certain An Achievable Dream experiences with all students.

One class will be added to An Achievable Dream Academy each year. In three years, a second location will be added to ensure that students may remain in the An Achievable Dream environment through middle and high school.

Members of the Virginia Beach City Public School (VBCPS) Board visited the Newport News schools several times during the last school year to observe the program. School board members approved a contract with An Achievable Dream in July 2013. Seatack Elementary School was chosen in November by the VBCPS Board after a series of meetings with parents. The school was chosen in part because of the proud educational history of the community and strong parental support that the school administration believes will facilitate a successful start-up of the An Achievable Dream program. Virginia Beach’s oldest African American community, Seatack was founded more than 200 years ago as a community for free blacks. Parents came together to form the first school at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in 1908, and citizens donated the land for the original Seatack Elementary, which opened in 1952. The current Seatack school building was completed in 2000.

As in Newport News, public funds will cover the basic cost of operating the school. Components of An Achievable Dream’s program will be supported through private-sector fundraising. Thank you to the Patricia and Douglas Perry Foundation, the Sentara Health Foundation, the Hampton Roads Community Foundation, Joseph and Frances Luter, Stihl Inc., the Fine Family, Portfolio Recovery Associates, and the Beazley Foundation for your generous gifts already received.

of the staff and others associated with An Achievable Dream. In addition she has been intimately involved in the expansion to Virginia Beach. Kathy is well known to our benefactors, as well as municipal and civic leaders, and is an excellent communicator and caring executive.”

Edwards has worked for An Achievable Dream since its inception, first as a volunteer and full-time for 13 years. As chief development officer, she has been responsible for raising $1.6 million in the organization’s annual fund campaign, managing federal congressional-directed grants and overseeing plans for cultivation and special events. In addition, she has served as the chief operating officer, overseeing operations at both schools, and has managed community and board relations, state and federal relations and human resources.

A graduate of Virginia Tech, Edwards began her career in public relations in the mid-1980s. She managed all public relations functions at both Hampton University and Christopher Newport University before joining the staff of An Achievable Dream in 2000.
Left: Eighth-grade students at AAD Middle & High School welcomed guests from Busch Gardens in October. Following a demonstration featuring a variety of birds and small mammals, students enjoyed getting “up close and personal” with one of the park snakes.

Right: An Achievable Dream and Walter Segaloff were featured in the November/December 2013 issue of Tennis magazine, “The Heroes of Tennis Issue.” AAD and Segaloff were profiled along with such tennis greats as Arthur Ashe, Billie Jean King and John McEnroe.

AAD Senior Nasir Curry helped accept the National Arts and Humanities Youth Award on behalf of the Pearl Bailey Library during a ceremony with Michelle Obama at the White House on November 22. Curry has participated in the library’s youth program for the last five years and currently serves as president of the Teen Advisory Committee.

AAD juniors and seniors were hosted by the College of William & Mary Law School in November as part of the college’s involvement with the Discover Law Program of the Law School Admissions Council. The program provides grant funding to law schools in order to increase awareness of and diversity in the legal profession. During their visit, W&M students conducted a First Amendment seminar with the students and presented a short course on First Amendment issues.

The Noblemen, a non-profit organization based in Virginia Beach with chapters throughout Hampton Roads, donated and presented toys to AAD students in December.

Members of the Academy’s En Pointe Dancers performed in the Nutcracker at the Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center in December.
Excerpt from Brian McGowan’s Tennis Ball Remarks

During the 2013 Tennis Ball, Alumnus Brian McGowan spoke about his experience with An Achievable Dream. McGowan recently completed his Ph.D. and is an assistant professor of higher education at Indiana State University.

I am humbled and honored to stand before you today as a member of the An Achievable Dream Class of 2001, a Frank and Marie Blechman scholar, a professor, a colleague and a friend. When sharing my story, I often tell people that it takes a village to be successful. My village includes family, friends, mentors, church members, school teachers, principals and college professors. It is nice to see members of my village in this room tonight. I would not be standing here today if it were not for the positive seeds you have sown into my life.

Briefly, I would like to spend some time this evening discussing three critical moments that positively influenced my development. As many of you know, I grew up in a community where the odds were stacked against me; one where everyone pretty much looked like me. Despite being an above-average student academically, I had trouble interacting with peers who did not look like me, resulting in many physical altercations. My principal at that time, Ms. Barbara Goldstein, believed in me and signed me up for the An Achievable Dream program instead of an alternative school. Her decision ultimately changed my life.

The next critical moment involves a tradition engrained in every young dreamer, the Banners. Dreamers recite the Banners every morning, every single morning. Messages conveyed in the Banners became a living document that still guides my actions and behaviors. The Banner that resonated with me the most is “nothing was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

The third critical moment was attending college. I found myself enjoying undergraduate leadership experiences on campus. I sought out a mentor who took me under his wing and encouraged me to pursue my dream of devoting my life to helping college students. As a result, I went to The Ohio State University to pursue a Masters degree in higher education and student affairs, worked at Rutgers University with organizations to improve the experiences of black males and earned a Ph.D. from Indiana University this past July with a 3.94 GPA.

I am not saying these things to brag about my accomplishments. I am sharing them to help us move beyond deficit perspectives that are constantly reinforced in media and educational practice. The emphasis on failure and low performing black male students must be counterbalanced with insights gathered from those who somehow manage to persist despite all that is stacked against them. I look forward to the day where this story can be the norm and not the outlier. Sponsors, continue to make a difference in the lives of students like me. It is your contributions that play a vital role in producing high-achieving students who will become contributing members of society.

I constantly reflect on words from the late Mr. Segaloff, “I believe in you.” He shook my hand most mornings as a kid; he had a really big hand. He looked me square in the eye and said that he believed in me. Folks, it is clear that the An Achievable Dream program is working and makes dreams come true. Despite growing up in the projects and overcoming adverse situations, my team believed in me and saw my potential. All it takes is for someone to open that door. Doors have been opened to me that my family could not have imagined: college tours as a kid, traveling and presenting research across the country and study-abroad experiences in Edinburgh, Scotland and Tokyo, Japan, among others.

Members of the Class of 2014, you are heirs to a great legacy. You have within you that same courage and same strength as the Dreamers who came before you. Success may not come quickly or easily but if you strive to do what is right; if you work harder and dream bigger; if you continue to abide by the messages in the banners, and surround yourself with a good team, I am confident together, we will continue achieving the dream.

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Achieved by Walter Segaloff in 2011 as a fundraiser for An Achievable Dream, the Run for the Dream, a weekend of road races in Williamsburg, Virginia, is now under the ownership of Flat-Out Events. An Achievable Dream will continue as the beneficiary of the event. Dave McGillivray, the race director of the BAA Boston Marathon, and his company DMSE Sports, will continue to manage race operations.

“This is an exciting time for An Achievable Dream with the expansion of our program to Virginia Beach in 2014,” said Kathy Edwards, interim president. “As we are growing, staff resources are needed in other capacities. We know that the race is in good hands and will continue to be a success.”

Based in Newport News, Virginia, Flat-Out Events is an athletic events management company that coordinates races throughout Hampton Roads, including the Busch Gardens Christmas Town Dash and the Virginia Running Festival at Christopher Newport University. “We are very excited to continue this great event and to support the students of An Achievable Dream,” said Jason Todd, director of Flat-Out Events.

“Over the past four years, race founder Walter Segaloff became a very dear friend and mentor to many of us at DMSE Sports,” said Dave McGillivray. “We will never forget him and are so pleased that we can continue with the race in his memory and in his honor. The Run for the Dream is truly one of our most favorite races to manage.”

The Run for the Dream is ideal for the entire family, from novices to serious runners. The scenic, historic course winds through beautiful Colonial Williamsburg and the College of William & Mary. Registration for the 2014 Run for the Dream is open online at www.RunforAchievableDream.com. As in past years, Colonial Williamsburg is providing free, single-day Historic Area passes (valid May 31–June 1) for the first 6,000 runners and the first 3,000 registrants will also receive a free pass to Busch Gardens (valid May 30–June 2).  

www.RunForAchievableDream.com

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